Questions

As a resident can I use a Fire Hydrant?

Only authorized personnel may use a fire hydrant. Authorized personnel would consist of the Water Division personnel, Fire Department and on certain hydrants, the Street Department personnel may be on a hydrant. Unauthorized use of a fire hydrant such as filling up commercial water trucks, opening hydrants to cool off children and private individuals using hydrants can cause a lot of damage and is strictly prohibited. When a fire hydrant is opened and closed wrong, it can cause a water hammer in the lines which can cause a utility line or private line to burst. It can cause a loss of pressure in the lines which could be very serious if there is a fire in the area or a medical facility.

We ask our customers to let us know when they see unauthorized personnel on our fire hydrants. Letting us know when you see someone on any of the almost 3000 hydrants that we have servicing our Utility area could save us thousands of dollars in repairs to our lines. Preventing a loss of pressure in our system could prevent a back-siphonage of contaminants in our water system. If you see someone call us at 258-1652.

How important are water towers to the Public Water System?

Elevated tanks provide storage and pressure in our system, thereby allowing for controlled pumping rates, water for peak usage and fire protection, and minimized service interruptions during equipment maintenance requirements.

In case of an emergency they hold enough water to supply water to our system for guarded uses for at least a day and some instances longer. Not to mention that they are a great way to promote your city.

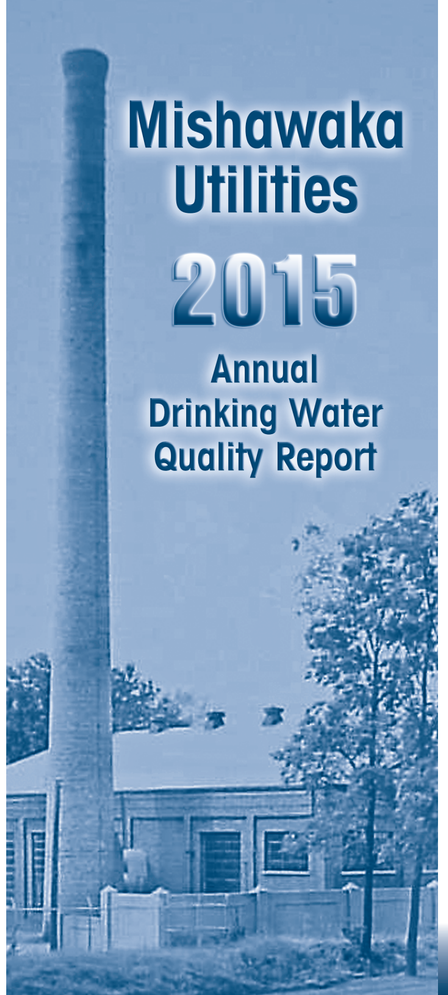
This report is provided annually as a public service by Mishawaka Utilities so that our consumers may have confidence in the quality of our water. If you have questions about this report, call our Water Division, Water Quality Department (574) 258-1652. Learn more about Mishawaka Utilities from our web site at www.mishawaka.in.gov. Further information may be obtained from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Informatioin at www.epa.gov/safewater/

Safe Drinking Water Hotline
800-426-4791

Mishawaka Utilities
PWSID #: IN5271009
is a member of:
American Water Works Association

Facts About Our Cover
The cover is a picture of our old Virgil Treatment Plant. It was originally constructed in the 1900's and the most recent renovation was in 2003.

Mishawaka Utilities 2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



HOW GOOD IS MISHAWAKA WATER?

Mishawaka Utilities is proud of your water system and is pleased to issue this Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2015. This brochure is a summary of the quality of our drinking water provided to our customers.

Mishawaka's drinking water has exceeded the strict standards set forth by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. In this report, you will find where your water comes from along with data about your water quality. You will also learn where you can receive more information about your drinking water.

The bottom line: ***The water is safe to drink!*** We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Call us for information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about our drinking water.

WATER FACT

IN 2014 OUR CUSTOMERS CONSUMED AN AVERAGE OF 200 GALLONS PER DAY, PER PERSON.

WHERE DOES MISHAWAKA'S WATER COME FROM?

Mishawaka Utilities pumps groundwater from twenty-two wells that tap the St. Joseph Aquifer, and transmits it to our treatment plants. A Wellhead Protection Program is in place.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO MAKE THINGS BETTER?

Mishawaka Utilities is constantly striving to improve the quality of drinking water delivered to Mishawaka residents. To keep a check on water quality, we contract an independent laboratory to test our water. The results of this analytical testing let us know if any problems occur, and how effective our water treatment is.

Mishawaka Utilities also has an interactive Web site to allow quick and easy access for our customers.

MISHAWAKA UTILITY WATER DIVISION MAINTAINS OVER 310 MILES OF DISTRIBUTION PIPES WITHIN OUR WATER SYSTEM.

WATER FACT

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

PREVENTING WINTER FREEZE UPS

Winter means colder temperatures and the chance of frozen pipes and meters. The colder the winter, the further down the frost line in the ground moves. If the temperatures should reach the low teens and subzero temperatures, it is recommended you run a small stream of water to prevent freeze ups. Letting a faucet drip during extreme cold weather can prevent a pipe from bursting. Opening a faucet will provide relief from the excessive pressure that builds between the faucet and the ice blockage when freezing occurs. If there is no excessive water pressure, there is no burst pipe, even if the water inside the pipe freezes.

About half of the other freeze ups we see are the customer's responsibility. If your line does freeze it could cost hundreds of dollars and in some cases thousands to get the water flowing again, and could take days to restore service.

Even as the temperature warms, the frost takes longer to melt in the ground. This is why we say it doesn't take much, just a small trickle of water flowing during the winter months, most notably from January through March to keep your water running.

WHEN YOU RETURN FROM A LONG VACATION YOU SHOULD RUN YOUR WATER THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE TO FLUSH OUT THE WATER PIPES FROM STANDING WATER WITHIN THEM. THE BATHTUB COLD WATER FAUCET IS USUALLY THE BEST FLUSHING POINT WITHIN A HOME.

WATER FACT

SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

(E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Testing for the above classes of contamination is performed in accordance with a testing schedule provided by IDEM in accordance with Federal regulations..

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

THE AVERAGE TOTAL HARDNESS FOR MISHAWAKA WATER IS 19 GRAINS PER GALLON.

WE TEST DRINKING WATER EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK FOR AN AVERAGE OF OVER 50 DRINKING WATER SAMPLES TESTED EACH DAY TO HELP ENSURE THE QUALITY OF OUR DRINKING WATER.

HOW TO READ THIS TABLE

It's easy! Our water is tested to assure that it is safe to drink. The results of tests performed in 2014 or the most recent testing available are presented in the table.

The testing data presented in this current report represents the results from the last required testing date for that contaminant. Testing dates may vary depending on contaminant and requirements. The strictly regulated testing schedule is set and under the guidance of the EPA and IDEM. We test for numerous contaminants, but only **contaminants that are detected are reported**.

The column marked **GOAL** shows the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or **MCLG**. This is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. **MCLGs** allow for a margin of safety.

The column marked **MAXIMUM ALLOWED** is the Maximum Contaminant Level or **MCL**. This is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. **MCLs** are set as close to the **MCLGs** as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS provides an explanation of the typical natural or man-made origins of the contaminant. Footnotes below the chart are provided to explain important details.

ACTION LEVEL is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

THE WATER WE DRINK: SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY DATA

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	DATE TESTED	IN COMPLIANCE	GOAL (MCLG)	MAXIMUM ALLOWED (MCL)	RANGE OF VALUES TESTED	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
Arsenic (ppm)	2014	Yes	0.0100	0.0100	0.0010 - 0.0014	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppm)	2014	Yes	2.000	2.000	0.0650 - 0.2100	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	2014	Yes	1.3	AL=1.3	1 site exceeds AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride (ppm)	2014	Yes	4.00	4.00	0.70 - 0.90	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead (ppb)	2014	Yes	0	AL:15	1 site at AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel (ppb)	2014	Yes	n/a	100	0.0010 - 0.0015	Naturally occurs in soils, groundwater and surface waters, often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products.
Nitrate (ppm)	2014	Yes	10	10	0.10 - 1.20	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate (ppm)	2014	Yes	n/a	n/a	44 - 54	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	2014	Yes	n/a	n/a	11 - 35	Erosion of natural deposits.
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	DATE TESTED	IN COMPLIANCE	MCLG	MCL	RANGE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2014	Yes	n/a	100	9.1 - 36.6	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2014	Yes	n/a	60	3.3 - 19.0	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS	DATE TESTED	IN COMPLIANCE	MCLG	MCL	RANGE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
Total Coliform[1] (% of samples)	Oct/2014	Yes	No Detects	≥5%		Naturally present in the environment.
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS	DATE TESTED	UNIT	MCLG	MCL	RANGE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	2010	Yes	0	5	<1.5 - 3.9	Erosion of natural deposits.
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	2010	Yes	0	50	<3.0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2010	Yes	0	5	<0.6	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium (mg/L)	2010	Yes	0	30 ug/L	<0.0005 - 0.001	Erosion of natural deposits.
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS[2]	DATE TESTED	FEDERAL REQUIREMENT	MCL	RANGE		SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
Chlorate (ug/L)	2013	None Required	n/a	nd - 290		Agricultural defoliant or desiccant; disinfection by-product and used in production of chlorine dioxide.
Chromium, Hexavalent (ug/L)	2013	None Required	n/a	nd - 0.04		Naturally occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys.
1,1-Dichloroethan (ug/L)	2013	None Required	n/a	nd - 0.16		Halogenated alkane; used as a solvent.
1,4-Diozane (ug/L)	2013	None Required	n/a	nd - 0.07		Used in solvent or solvent stabilizer in manufacture of products.
Molybdenum (ug/L)	2013	None Required	n/a	1.10 - 2.50		Naturally occurring element found in ores and present in plants, animals and bacterial.
Strontium (ug/L)	2013	None Required	n/a	88.0 - 1.20		Naturally occurring element.

WATER QUALITY TABLE FOOTNOTES

1. In 2014, one of the 600 samples tested positive. The same was retested and the result was negative.
2. The EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management had mandated that Water Utilities report the monitoring results whenever unregulated contaminants are detected. In 2013 the Mishawaka Water Division tested our water and the above unregulated contaminants were found. There is no federal requirement for health effect information for unregulated contaminants nor has the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

KEY TO TABLE

AL = Action Level
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
n/a = not applicable
nd = none detected

Important Information on Lead: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Mishawaka Utilities Water Division is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.